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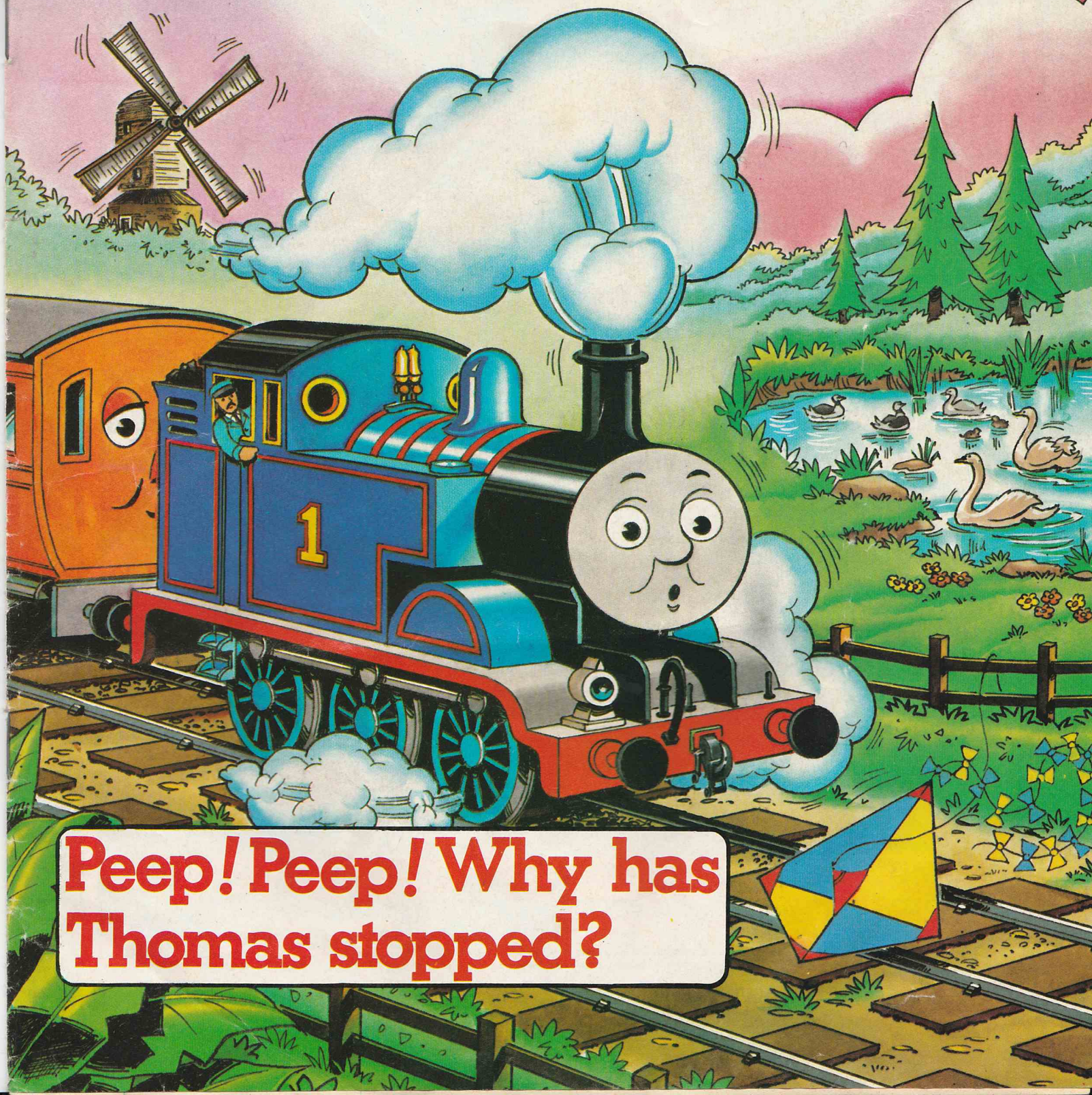
No. 51 40p

THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS

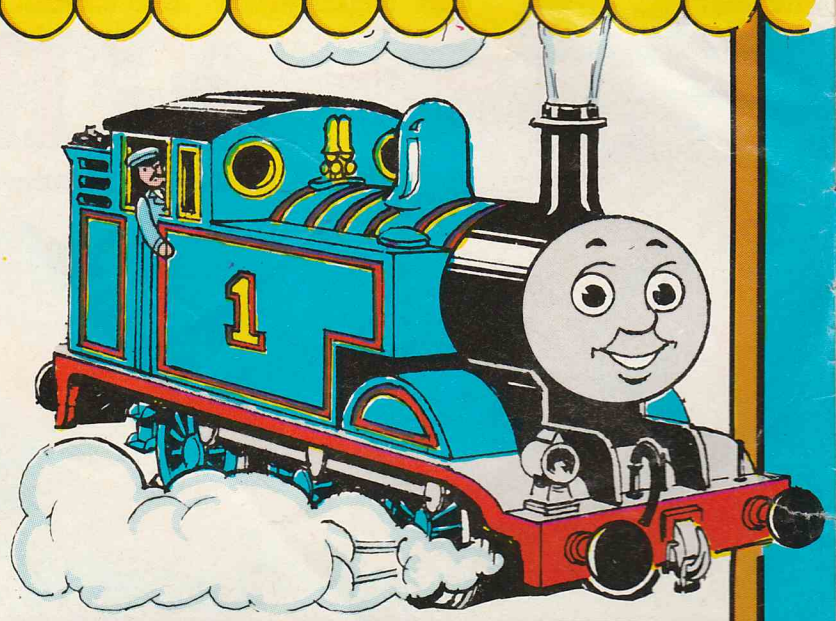
Based on The Railway Series by The Rev. W. Awdry.



Peep! Peep! Why has Thomas stopped?

THE THOMAS CLUB PAGE

Peep! Peep! Did you know that one of Percy's favourite places on the Island of Sodor is the big wildlife park? Well, in this issue, one of the animals has escaped! Oh dear, it is a fierce lion. And what's more, Percy finds it strolling along his line! Peep! Peep!

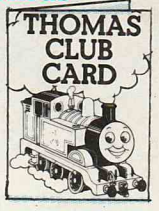


EVERY ISSUE!

By taking out a subscription to **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends,** every issue will be sent straight to your home for a year! You will also receive a splendid **Thomas Pack** and become an automatic member of the **Thomas Club** too! Details are on page 7!

MEMBERSHIP CARDS!

There is another way of joining the **Thomas Club** without taking out a year's subscription. Just collect 3 tokens like the one on the bottom of this page. Send one yellow, one red and one green token, together with a stamped addressed envelope, to: *Thomas Membership Cards, Marvel Comics, 13-15 Arundel Street, London WC2.*



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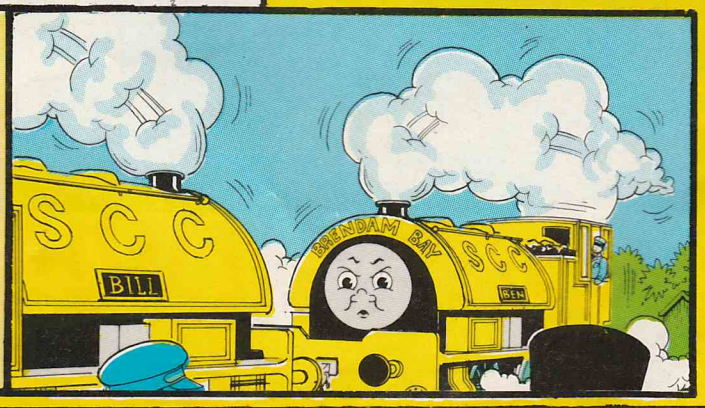
SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT!

There's an extra special bonus with issues 52 and 53 of **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends** magazine – a smart **foam sticker** in each issue, just for you! Don't miss them!

THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS

In our next issue: There is trouble on the line when Bill and Ben meet head on!



THOMAS TOKEN

THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS is published fortnightly by **MARVEL COMICS LTD**, 13/15 Arundel Street, London WC2R 3DX.
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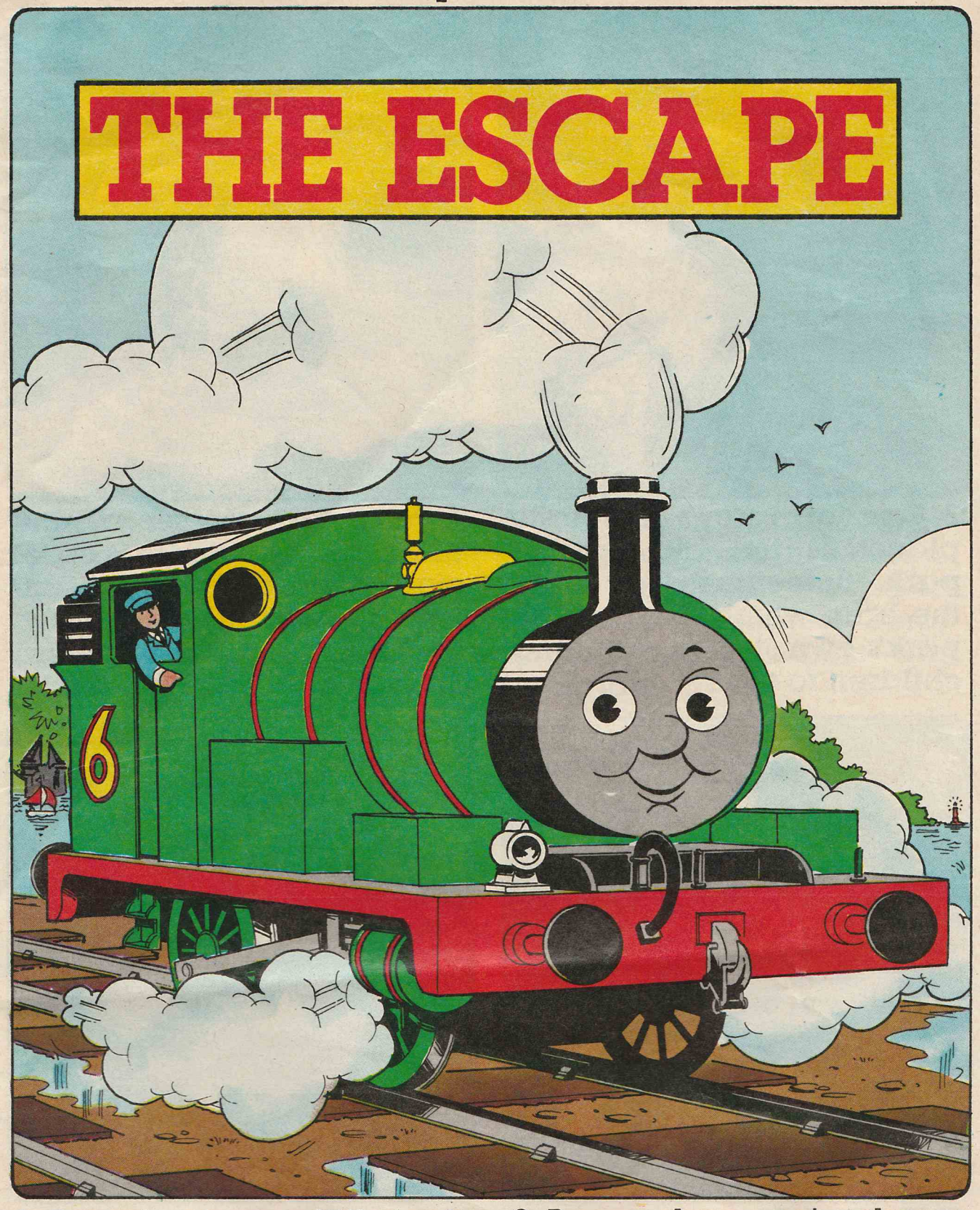
ABC

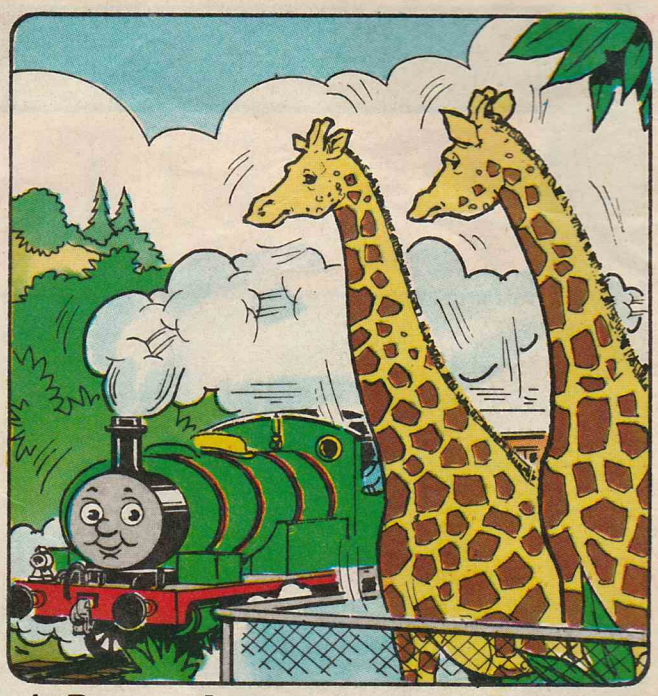
A listen and look story!



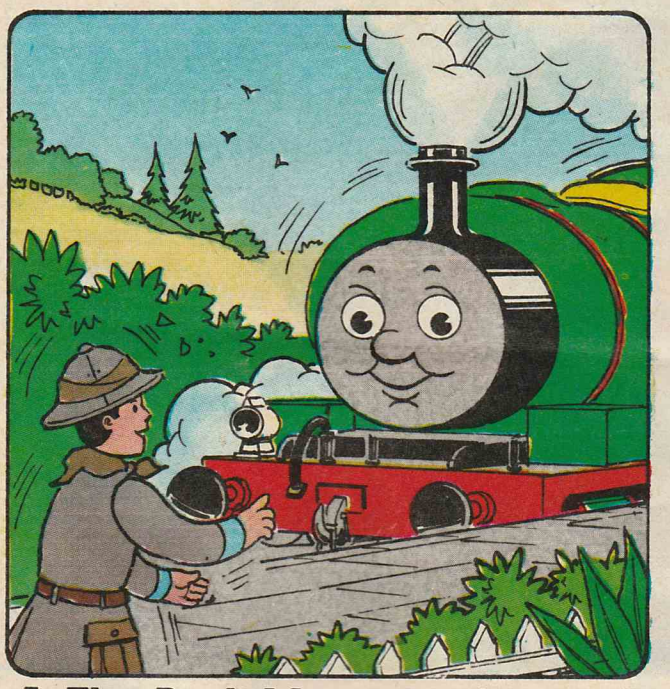
1. Percy is a happy little tank engine. He is quite content with his work in the harbour yard. He is always keen to oblige and doesn't mind working hard either.

2. Percy does not always have to stay in the harbour yard. He has travelled all over the Island of Sodor and pulled all sorts of trains from passengers to goods.

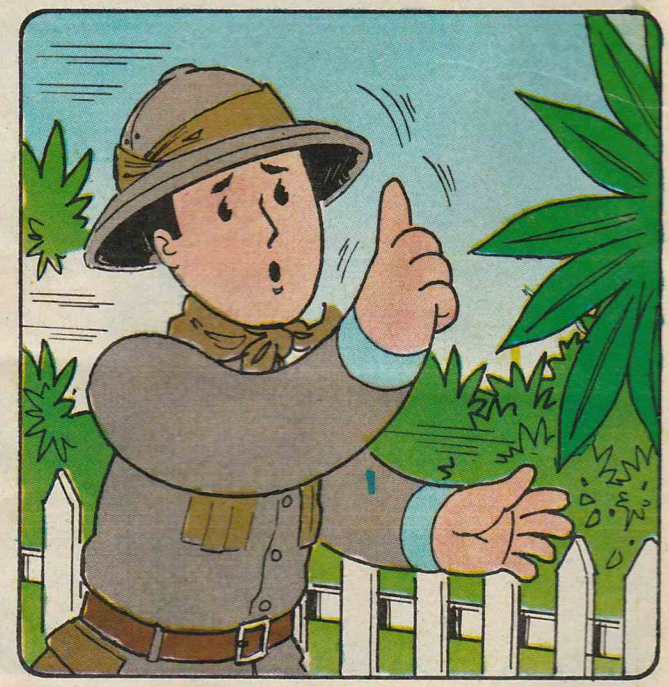
3. One of Percy's favourite places is the big wildlife park. Sometimes he takes the train which stops at the park's own station, bringing children to visit.



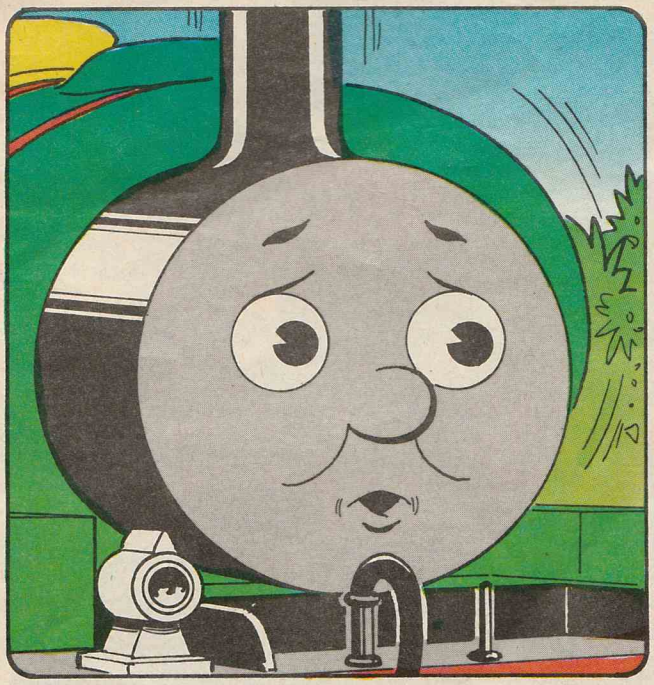
4. Percy loves to see all the different animals. He is especially fond of the two giraffes, Gerald and Sally, because he made a special journey to bring them there.



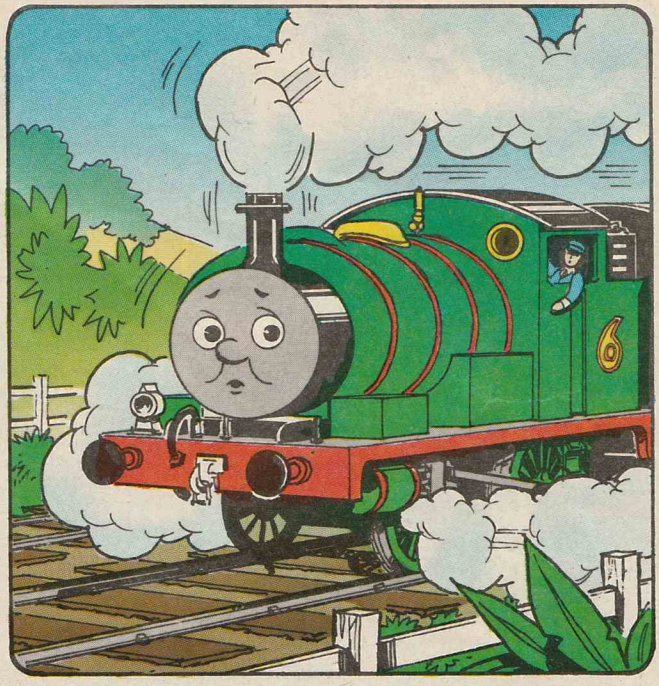
5. The Park Manager is good friends with Percy and they like to chat. Sometimes they chat so much, it puts Percy behind schedule, but he can usually make up the time.



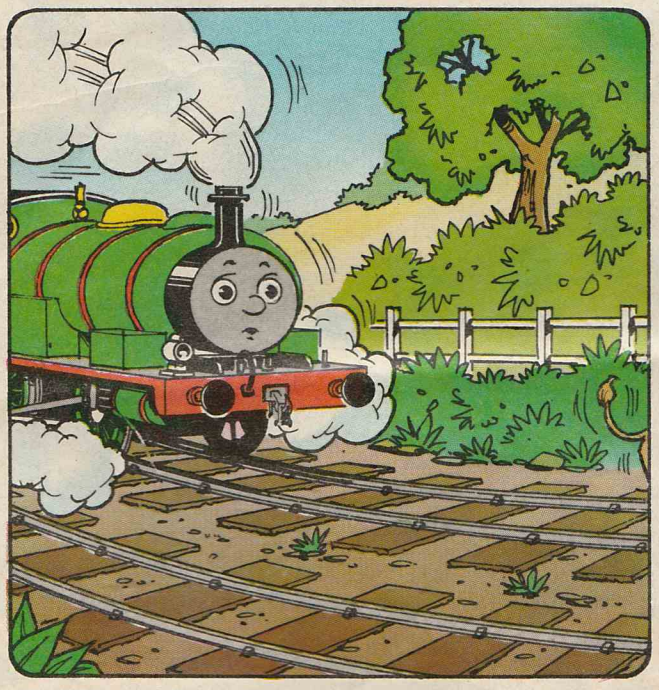
6. One day Percy had stopped at the park station. His passengers were getting on and off the train, suddenly the Park Manager came running over.



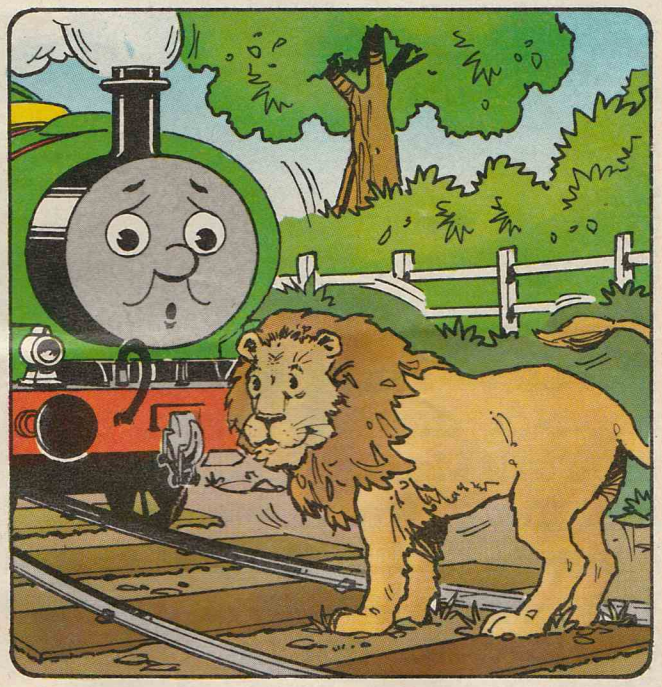
7. "What's wrong?" asked Percy. "I have to go to a meeting with the Chief of Police," said the Park Manager. "One of our animals has escaped."



8. "Oh dear," said Percy. "Which animal has escaped?" "It's a lion," whispered the Park Manager. Percy hurried along. This was important!



9. They had not gone very far when they came round a little bend. Percy noticed something on the track. "Oh no!" said Percy. "Get out of the way now, cow!"



10. But it was not a cow at all. It was a lion! Percy's driver put on the brakes. He didn't blow the whistle. He didn't want to frighten the lion by making a loud noise.

11. Percy didn't know what to do. Nor did his driver, but the Park Manager did. Luckily, there were two game keepers with him, as well. They were used to the lion and did not get frightened. They used a special tranquiliser gun to put the lion to sleep. When the lion was soundly asleep they lifted him into the guard's van.

12. The guard was not very happy about that, but the game keepers assured him it was alright. Percy took his passengers to their stations and then he made a special journey to take the lion back to the park. The guard was rather pleased to see him go. Percy said goodbye to his friends and went away a very happy engine, indeed!

THE END

In our next issue: Head on!

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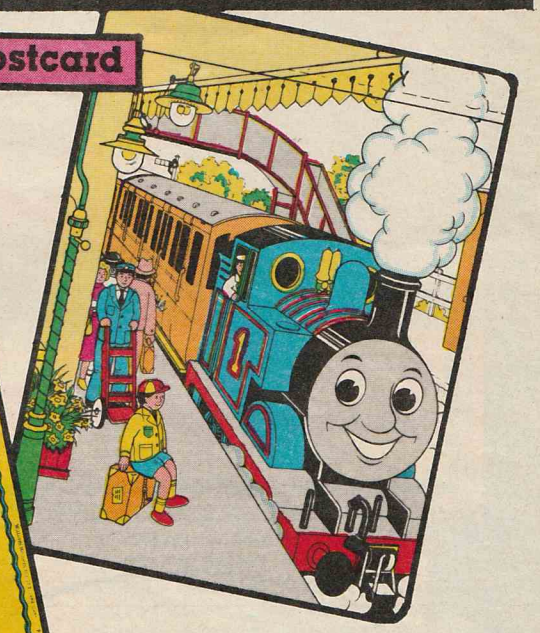

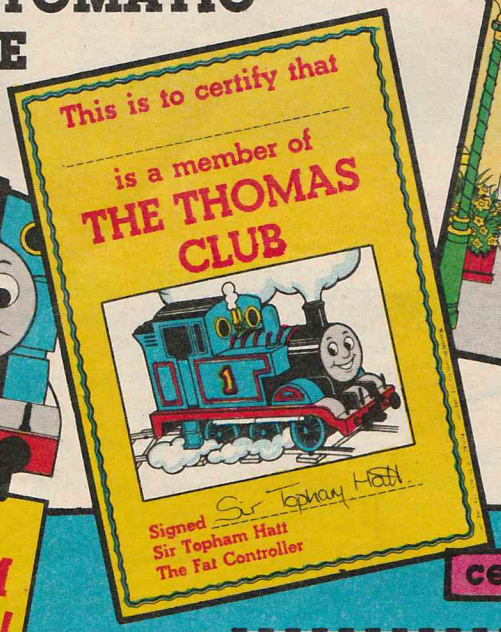

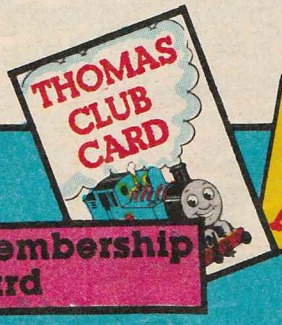

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I should like to subscribe to **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends** and understand I will receive 26 issues by post. I enclose a cheque/postal order for **£10.40** to include postage and packing. Please enrol me as an immediate member of the **Thomas Club** if I do not already belong.

Name .....

Age ..... **Birthday** .....

Address .....

.....

My favourite part of Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends magazine is .....

.....

Signature of parent/guardian .....

.....

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See **Thomas, Percy and James's GERBER FRUIT DRINK PACKS** for details of a **£1 DISCOUNT OFFER!** In the shops now!

JAMES'S JOKE GALLERY!

How do we know that all dentists are sad?

Because they always look down-in-the- mouth!

Julie, aged 6.

What whizzes through the water at one hundred miles per hour?

A motor-pike!

Michael, aged 6

If a chicken crosses the road, rolls in the mud and crosses back again, what do you have?

A dirty double-crosser!

Mark, aged 4.

What did the Eskimo wife say to her husband when he finished building their igloo?

'What an ice little house'!

David, aged 8.

Why do bakers work so hard?

They knead the dough!

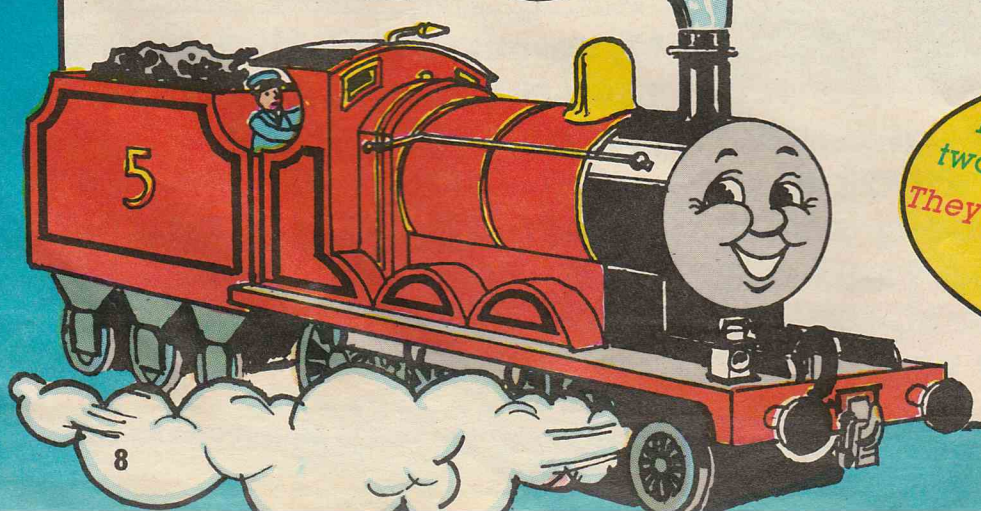
***Anthony**, aged 5.*

Have you got a good joke for James's Joke Gallery? Why not send it in to him at the address on the letters page?

What did the astronaut see in the pan?

An unidentified frying object!

Louise, aged 6.

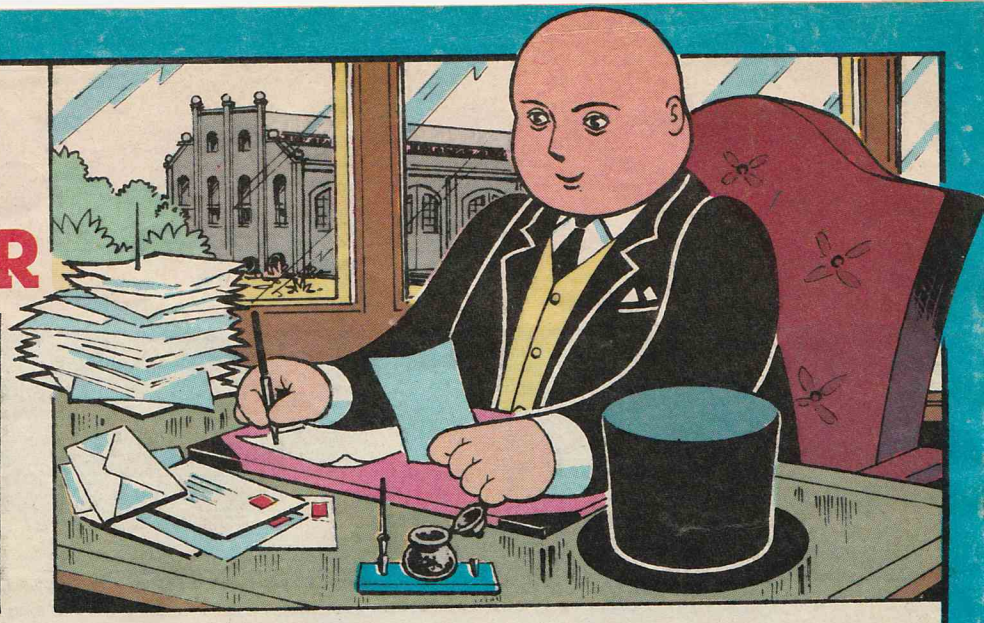


Did you hear about the two frogs that got married?

They lived hoppily ever after!

Paul, aged 4.

Write to the FAT CONTROLLER



Have you got an amusing story to tell? Do you have a question you would like to ask about Thomas – or any of the other engines? Then why not write to me at the address below? I should be so very pleased to hear from you!

STAR LETTER!

Dear Fat Controller,
I have just been in hospital to have an operation. I was wondering if any of your engines have ever had to have an operation of any kind?
Love from **Christopher,** aged 5.

No . . . my engines never actually need operations. However, they do occasionally need the odd service or spare part. In fact, only recently Gordon's brakes needed mending! Do you remember?

Christopher wins a splendid Thomas the Tank Engine torch, from *Unilite Leisure Ltd.*

GOING TO SCHOOL!

Dear Fat Controller
When mummy takes me to school, we have to walk up a hill. On my way up I pretend to be Thomas and coming down I am James.
Love from **John,** aged 5.

What a splendid idea. You must get to school in absolutely no time at all!

NIGHTSHIFT!

Dear Fat Controller,
Do any of your engines ever work right through the night?
From **Sean,** aged 7

Only on very rare occasions or in an emergency will any of my engines have to work at night. Normally though, their timetables are worked out so that every engine has safely returned to the shed well before nightfall.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Our very best birthday wishes go to:

Alexander Chatterton, Robert Sills, Mark Heathfield, Christopher Marklew (26833), Matthew Selby, Lisa Sharp, Donna Hall, Steven Irving, Laurie David Morris, David Hughes (1107), Martin Murray (28709), Michael Francis, Chris Carter (26684), Benjamin Dyer, Sarah Whiteley (27142), Colin Light (24072), Byron Thomas Wood, Stuart Anglo, Adam William Gardiner (9851), Adam Van-West (09949), Daniel William Reynolds, Neil Belshaw, Gary Sellick (28329), Robert Wallace (11925), David Thomas (4744), Anthony Slade (13849), Nicky Gregg (20700), Martin Thundercliffe (2599), Martin Howell (28401), Michael Blackledge (29726), Kevin Tonks, Daniel Hency, Robert Sharman (17400), Trevor Davies, Anthony Bradcock and Mark McQueen (28339).

If you'd like a birthday mention, just send details on a postcard please, at least **9 weeks in advance.** We cannot promise to print all the birthdays we receive, but we will try out very best!

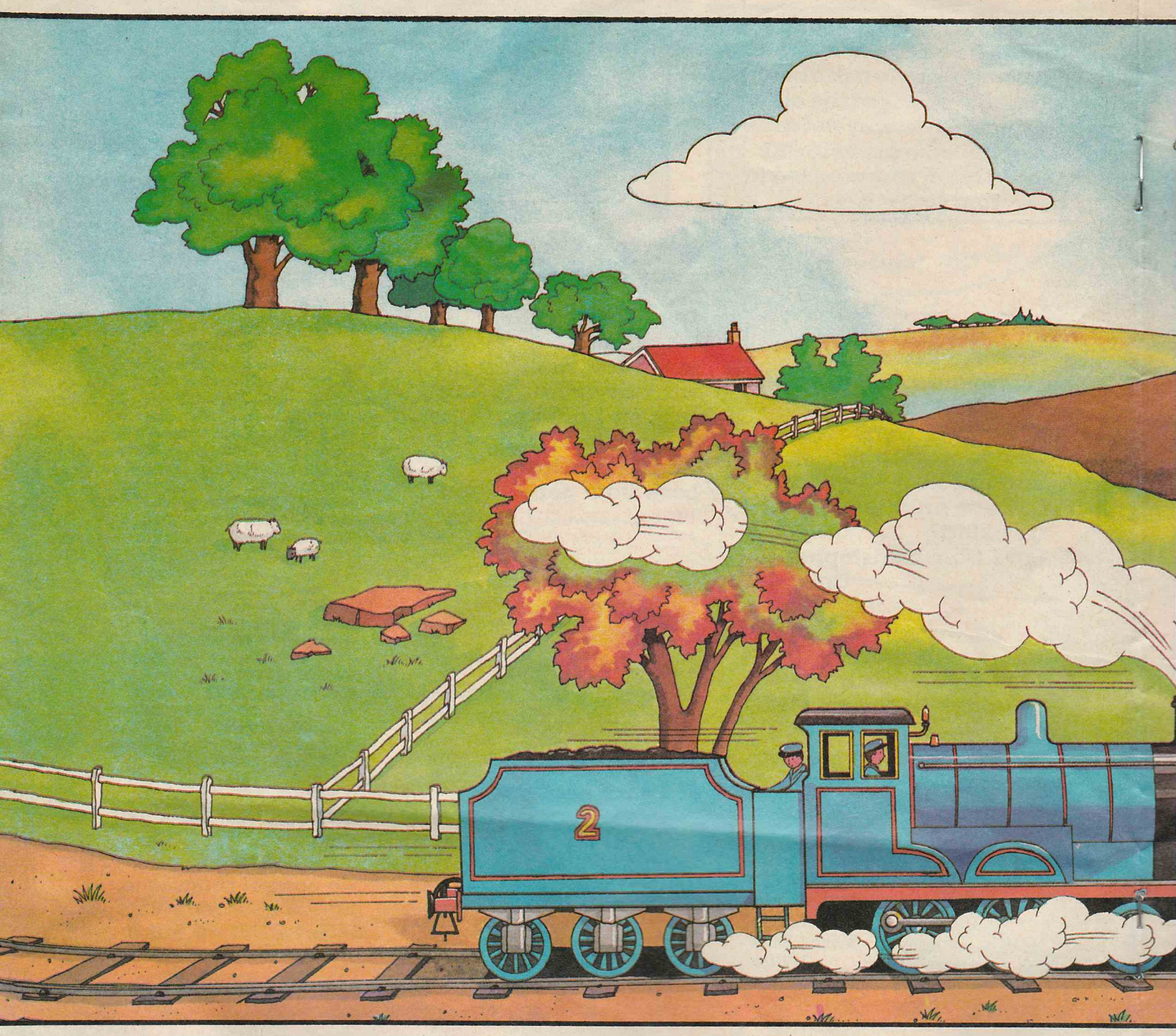
Yours,

Sir Topham Hatt.

the Fat Controller.

Send your letters to: The Island of Sodor, c/o Marvel Comics Ltd, 13/15 Arundel Street, London WC2.

Past the sch



Who is the blue engine?

What is he about to cross?

Have you ever been inside a castle?

What colour is the teacher's skirt?

How many school

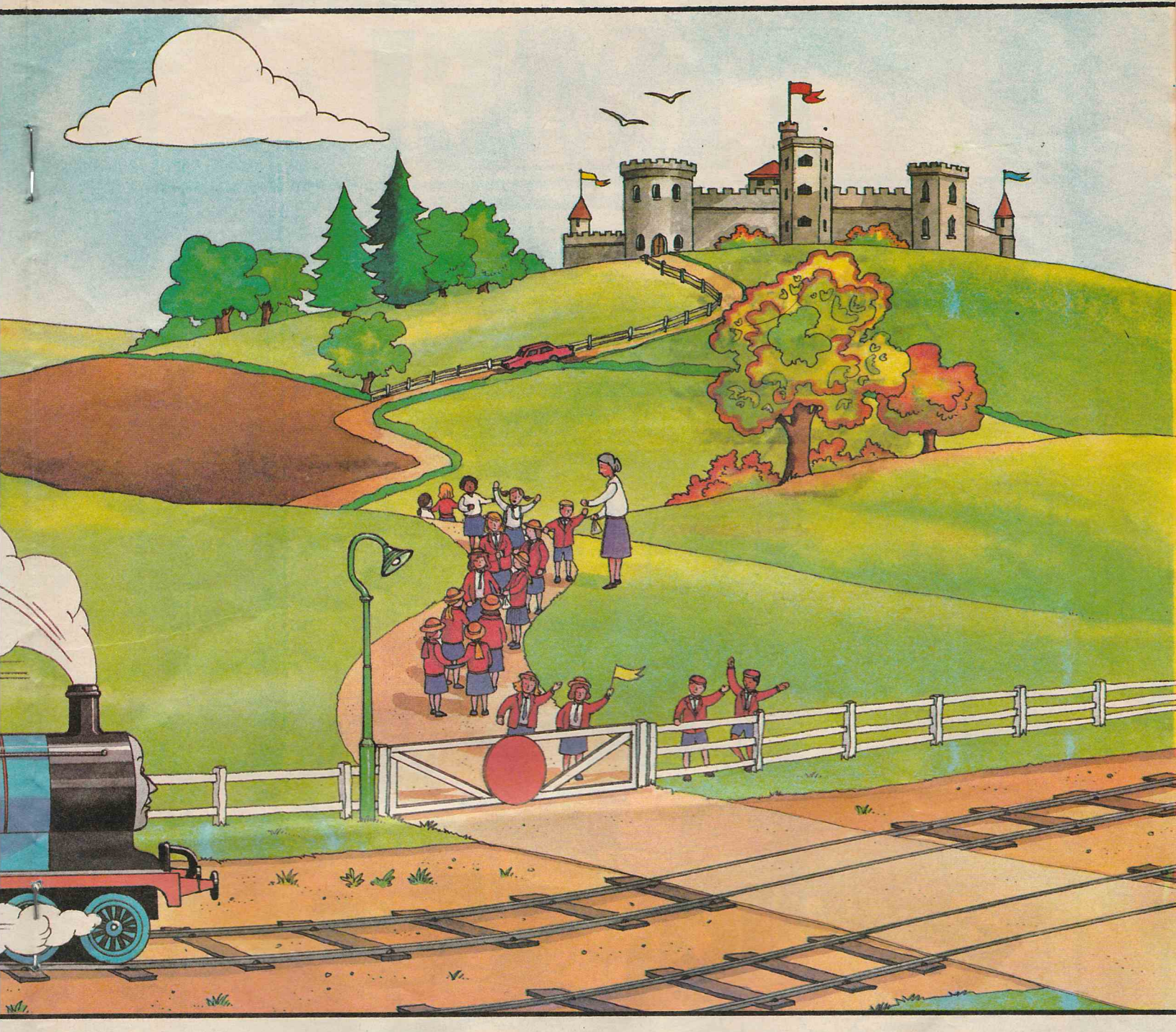
Are they all little g

Point to four flags!

Where do you thin

have been?

hool outing!



hool children can you count?

tle girls?

lags!

think the school children

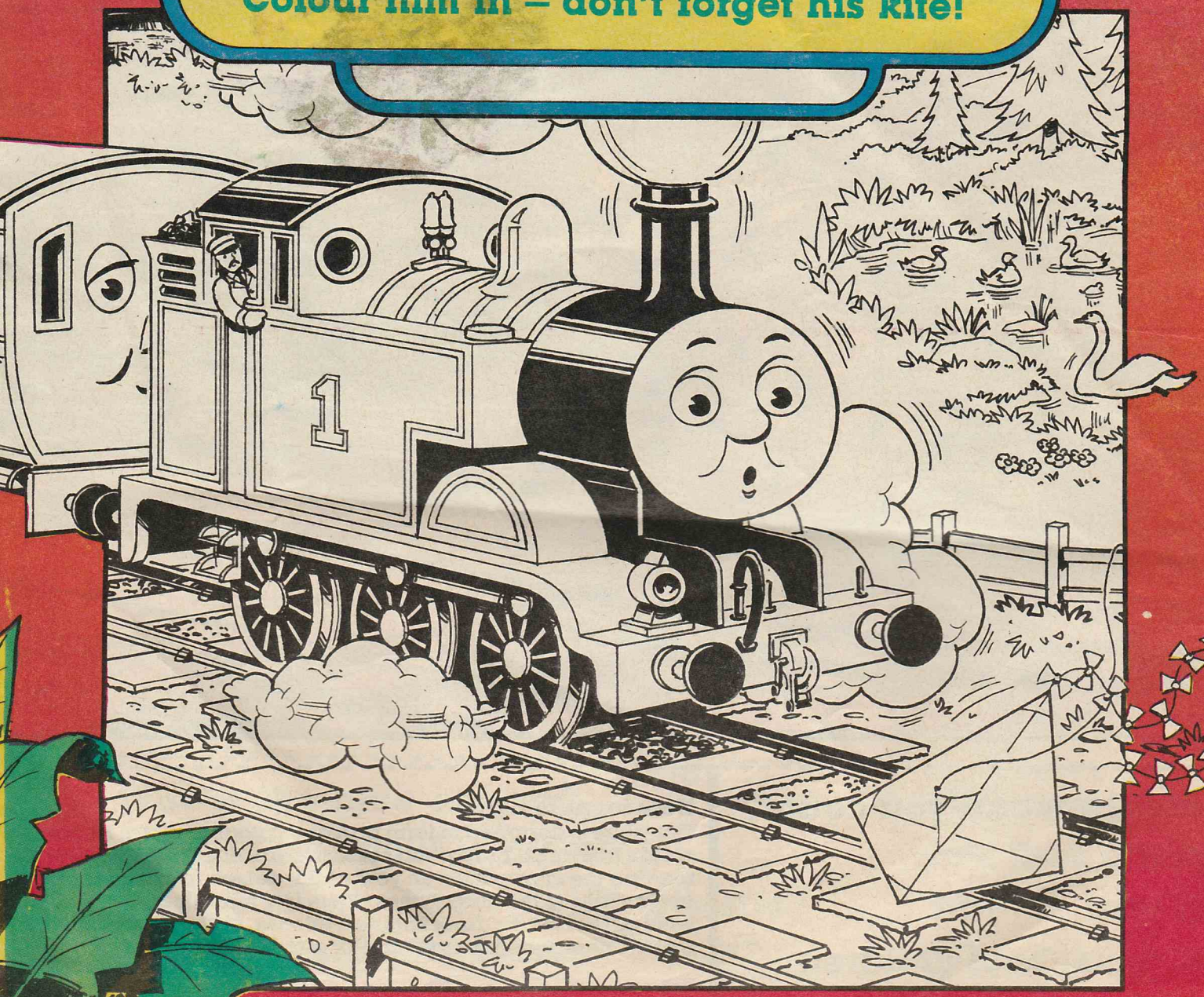
Note for parents

This page is designed to form part of a colourful mural for your child's bedroom, playgroup or classroom. After you have finished reading the magazine with your child, detach this centrespread and cut along the dotted lines. There is a 'mural page' in every issue of **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends**. Collect each one and watch Thomas and his friends puff all round the room!

Next issue: Past the allotments!

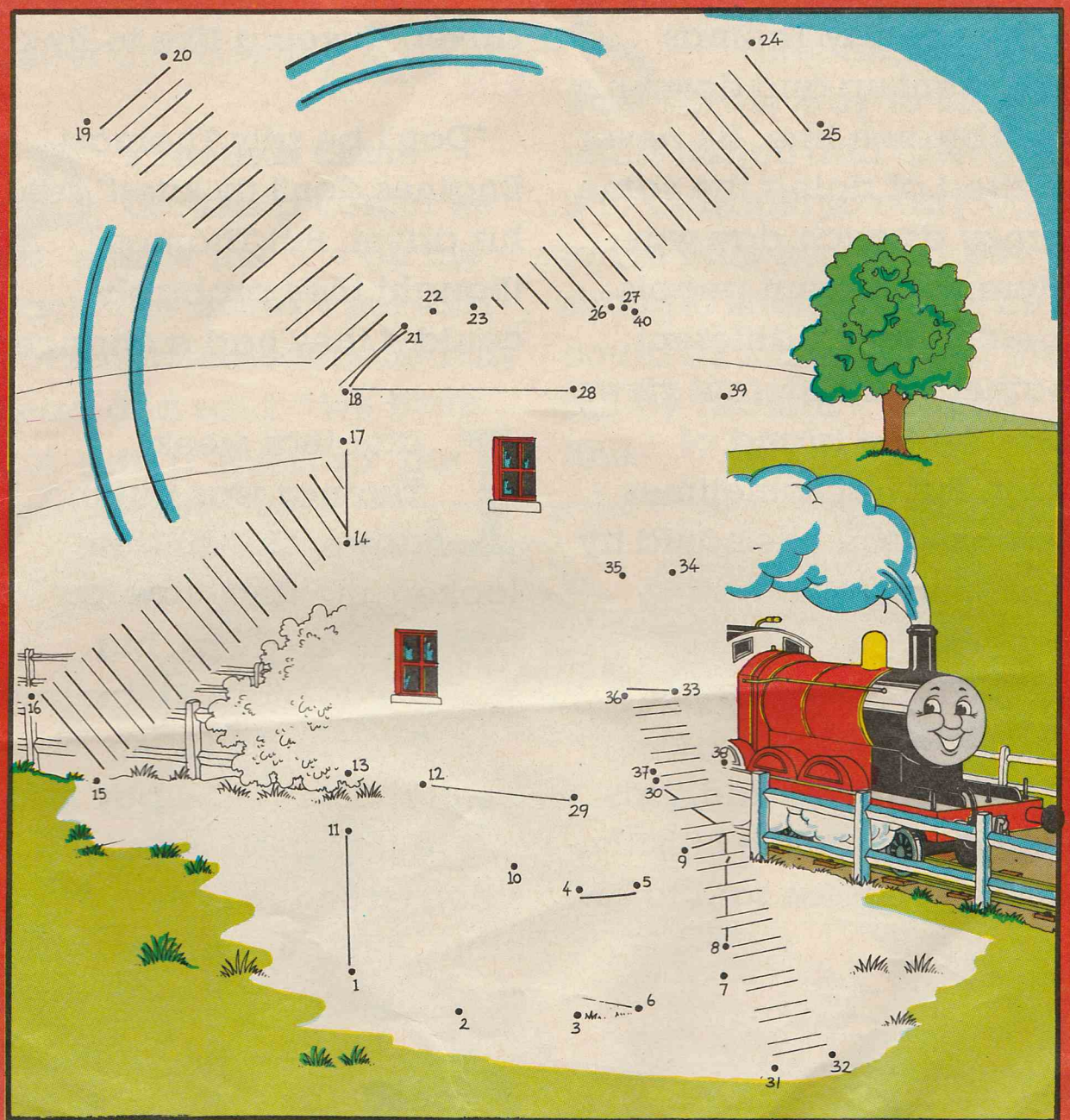
COLOURING TIME!

Thomas has seen a very strange sight. Colour him in – don't forget his kite!



JOIN THE DOTS!

James is smiling as he passes by,
Join the dots and find out why!



A read-aloud story!

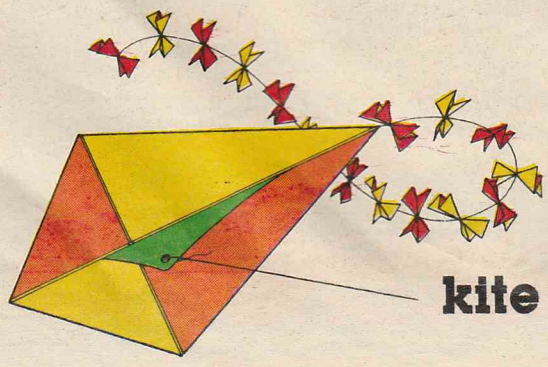
Thomas and the Kite

Every day Thomas went up and down his branch line. He never got tired of doing the same journey as each day was different: different people, different trucks, different weather and different views to see on the Island of Sodor. But just sometimes Thomas wished he could try something new.

On windy days he would sometimes see boys and girls flying kites from the hillside. One day Thomas said to his driver, "I would like to fly a **kite**."

"Don't be silly Thomas! Engines don't fly kites!" said his driver. But Thomas thought they probably could if they had a chance.

Later that week Thomas was puffing down the hill. He looked up and saw a boy with a great big **kite**. It was bigger than any **kite** Thomas had seen before. In fact, the boy had made it himself out of string, wooden poles and cloth. But the string was not strong enough to hold such a big **kite** and, as Thomas watched, the string broke and the **kite** flew away!



kite

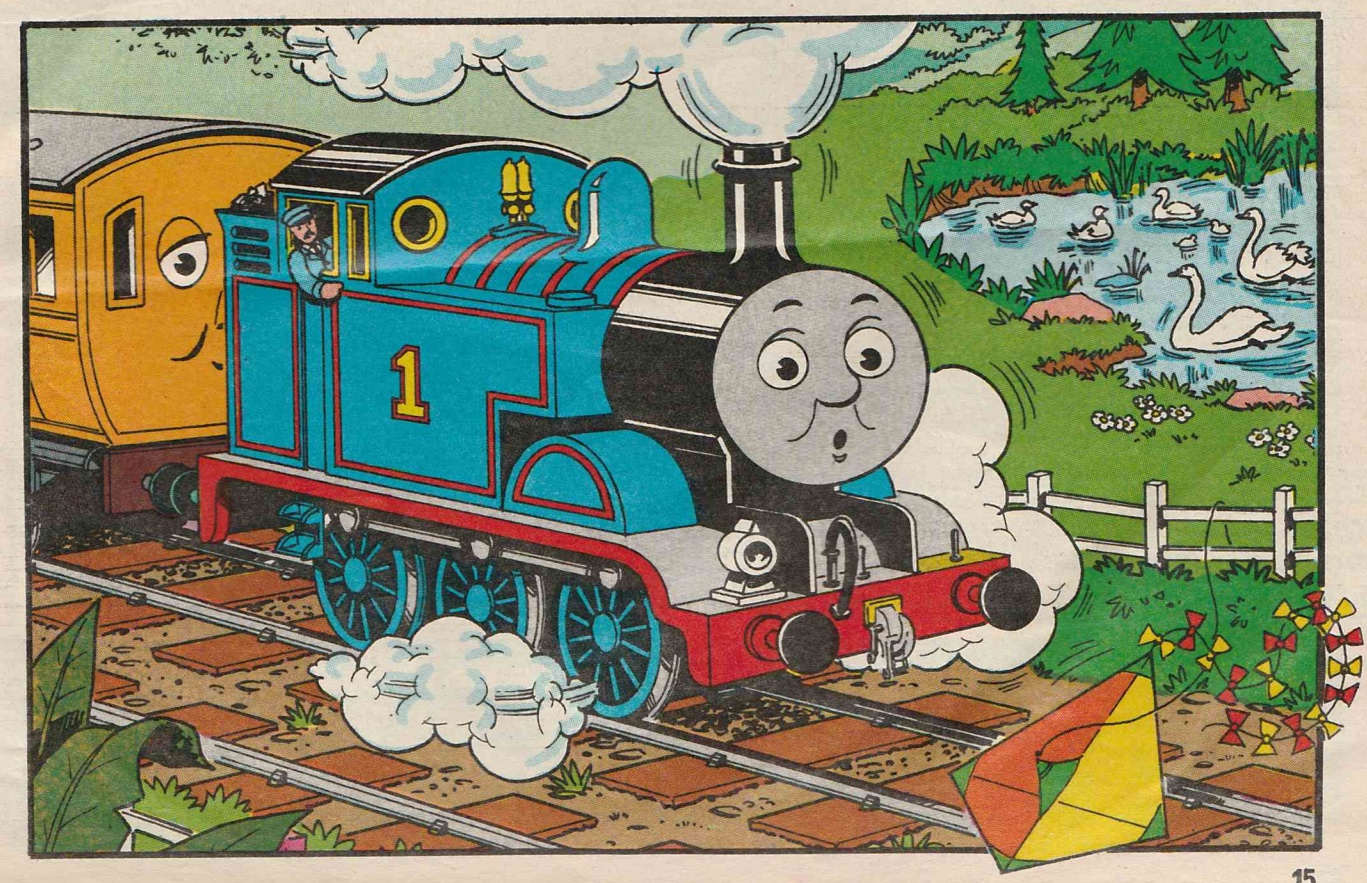
As Thomas puffed down the hill he could see the kite blowing away in front of him. Gradually it began to fall and then disappeared behind a rise in the ground. "It looks as if it has fallen near the rails," said Thomas's driver. "We had better go carefully."

As Thomas came around a corner he saw the kite on the track. The driver went and got it but then scratched his head and said, " We have not got a truck to put the kite in and it is too big for the cab. Where shall we put it?" The fireman had an idea.

"There is still lots of string. If we double it up to make it stronger we could fly it from the cab!"

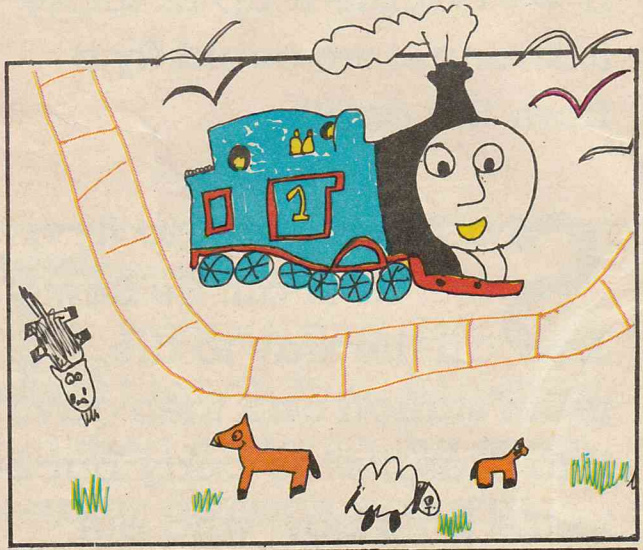
So Thomas got to fly a kite after all. He flew it all the way to the main station and then gave it to Clarabel to carry back to the little boy, who put stronger string on it so he could fly it again from the hill by Thomas's branch line.

THE END

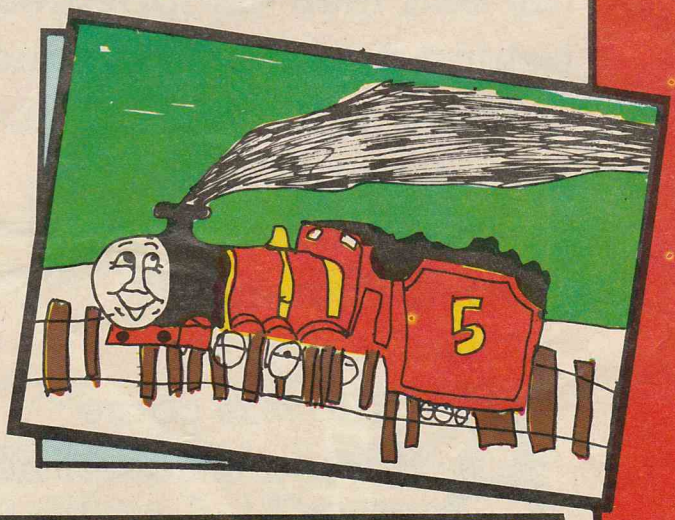


YOUR DRAWINGS
for the Fat Controller

Here are just a few of the many splendid drawings that you have sent us. Can you see your picture?

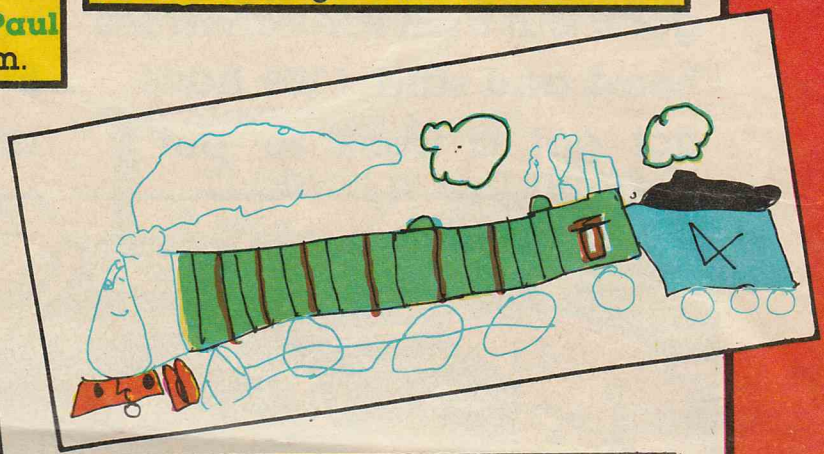


This splendid picture of Thomas passing some animals in the countryside was drawn by **Jean-Paul Mercier**, aged 6, from Birmingham.

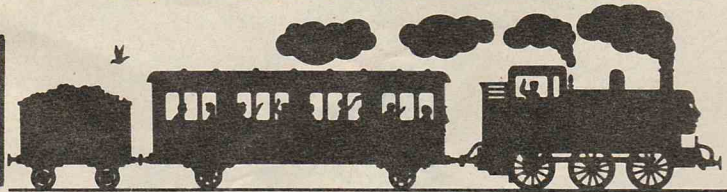


This very cheerful picture of James passing a field was drawn by **Peter Underwood** aged 4, from Fareham.

Can you see Percy chugging past the signal in the bright sunshine? This smart picture was sent in by **Jill McKenzie**, aged 5, from Scotland.

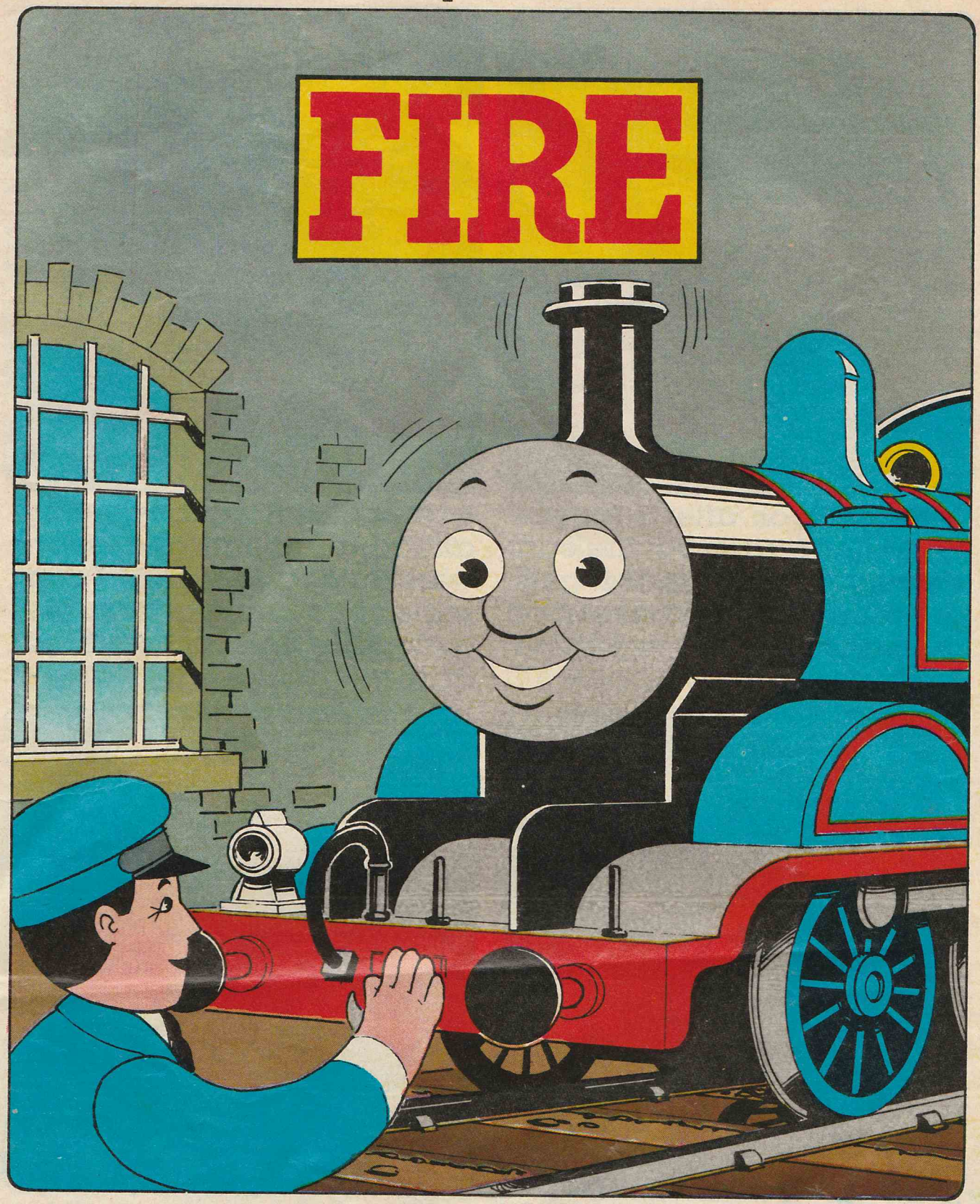


Here is a picture of Gordon the Big Express Engine. He has been splendidly drawn by **Jonathon McKendry**, aged 5, from Inverness.



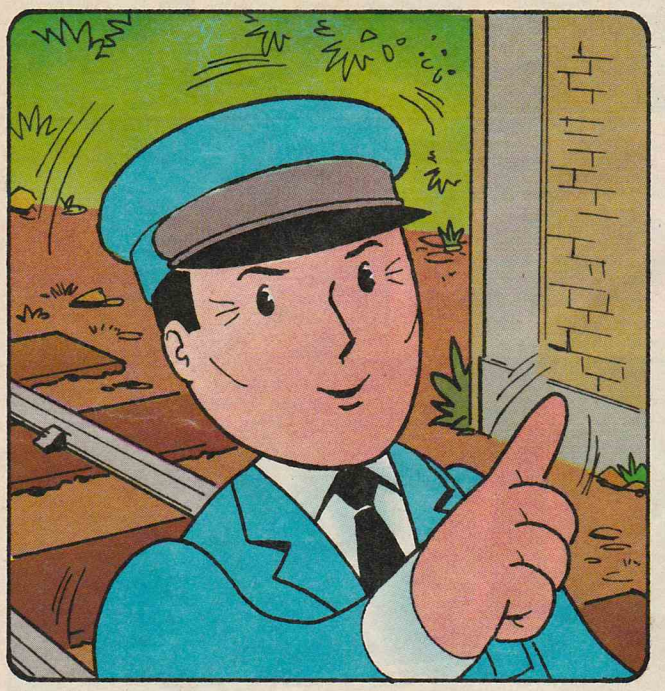
Thank you all for sending in your pictures – we are sorry that we could not print every one! If you would like to draw a picture for us, please send it to: *The Fat Controller (Pictures Page), The Island of Sodor, Marvel Comics Ltd, 13-15 Arundel Street, London WC2.*

A listen and look story!

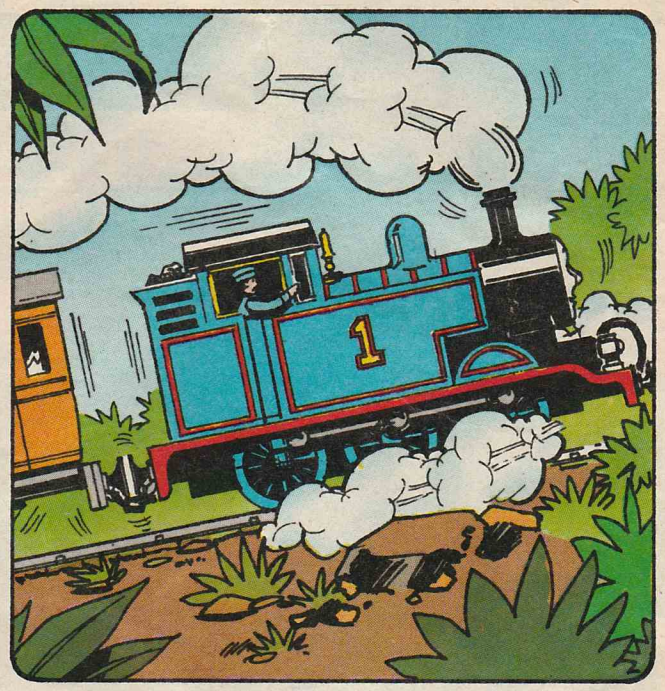


1. "Wake up Thomas!" said Thomas's fireman early one morning. He always woke Thomas up in the mornings, then lit his fire to get him ready for the day's work.

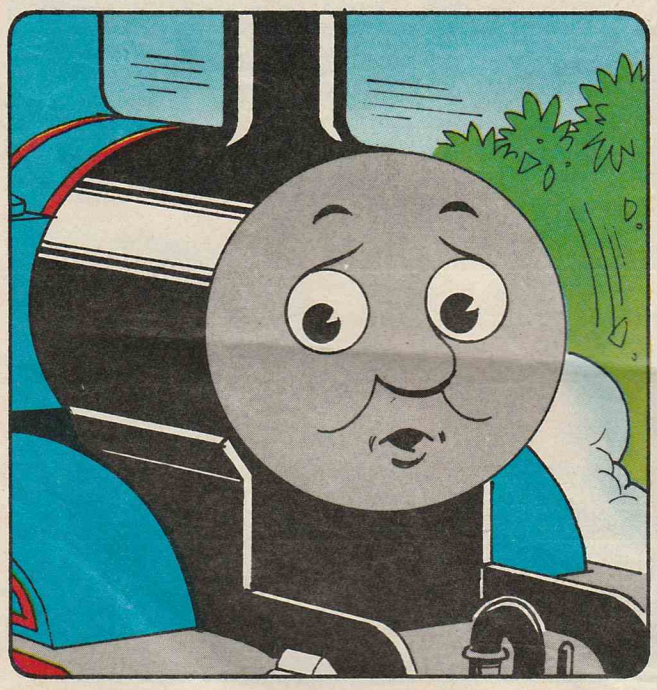
2. Soon Thomas felt the warmth of the fire and the steam in his pistons. "I like fire," said Thomas. "It's fine inside your firebox while I am here," said the fireman.



3. "I can look after your fire and keep it safe. But fire can be very dangerous. If it gets out of control, another sort of fireman is needed to put the fire out."

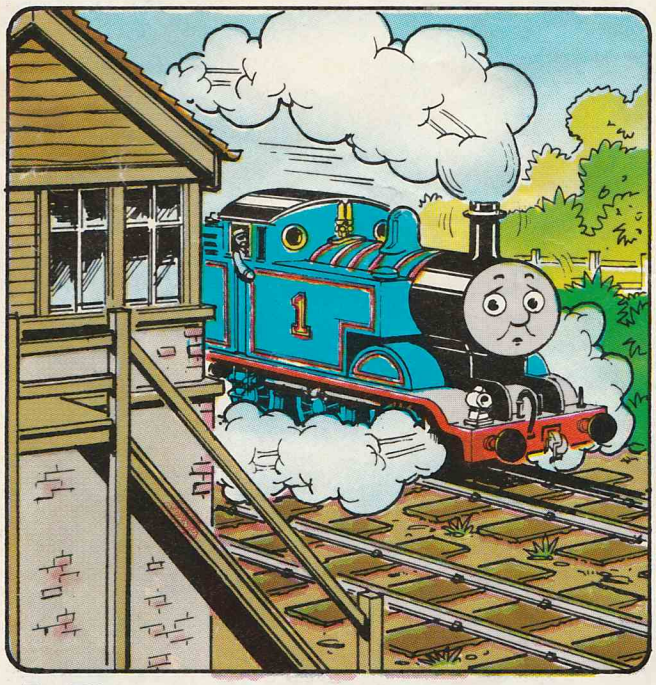


4. They had a busy day ahead of them and soon were puffing up a hill. "I can see smoke coming from the cottage at the top," said the driver.

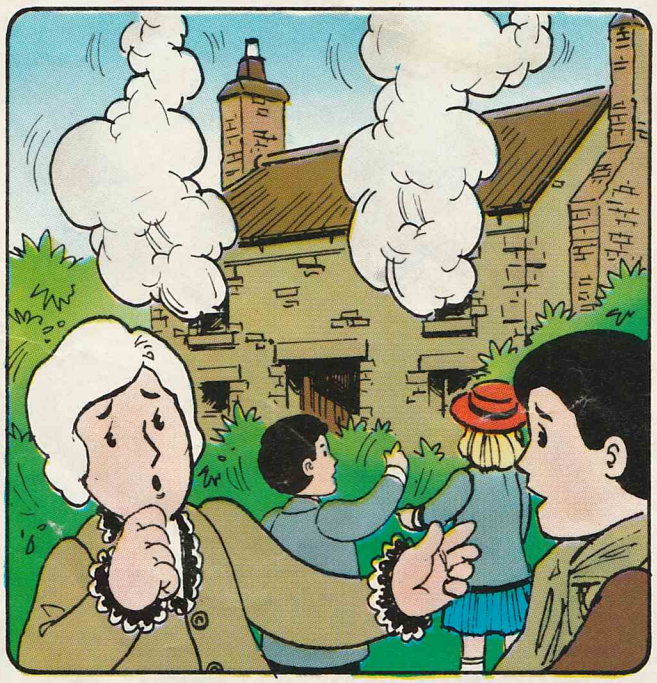


5. "I hope it is not blowing on the washing," said Thomas, remembering some trouble he had once. "No!" said the driver. "The cottage is really on fire!"

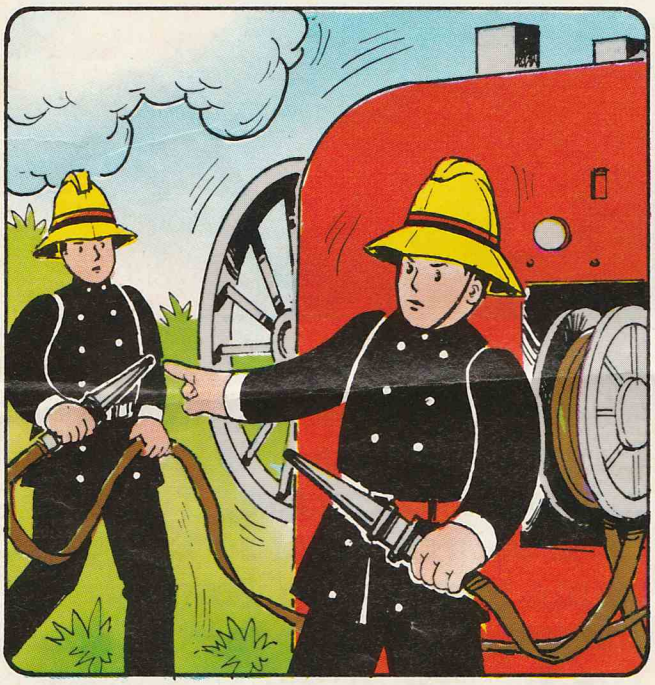
6. They got to the top of the hill and could see smoke coming from a window. The driver uncoupled Annie and Clarabel. "We will be quicker without them," he said.



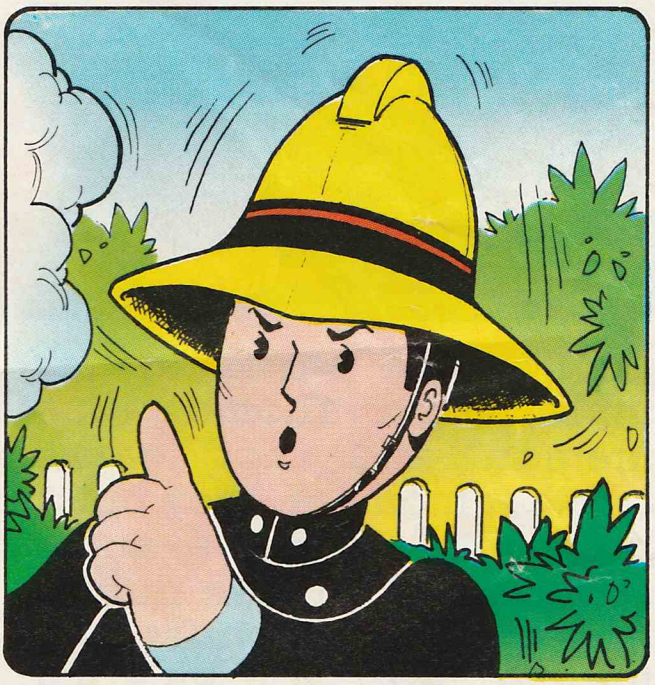
7. Thomas raced to the signalbox down the line. The driver shouted to the signalman, who telephoned the fire brigade. Then Thomas backed up the line.



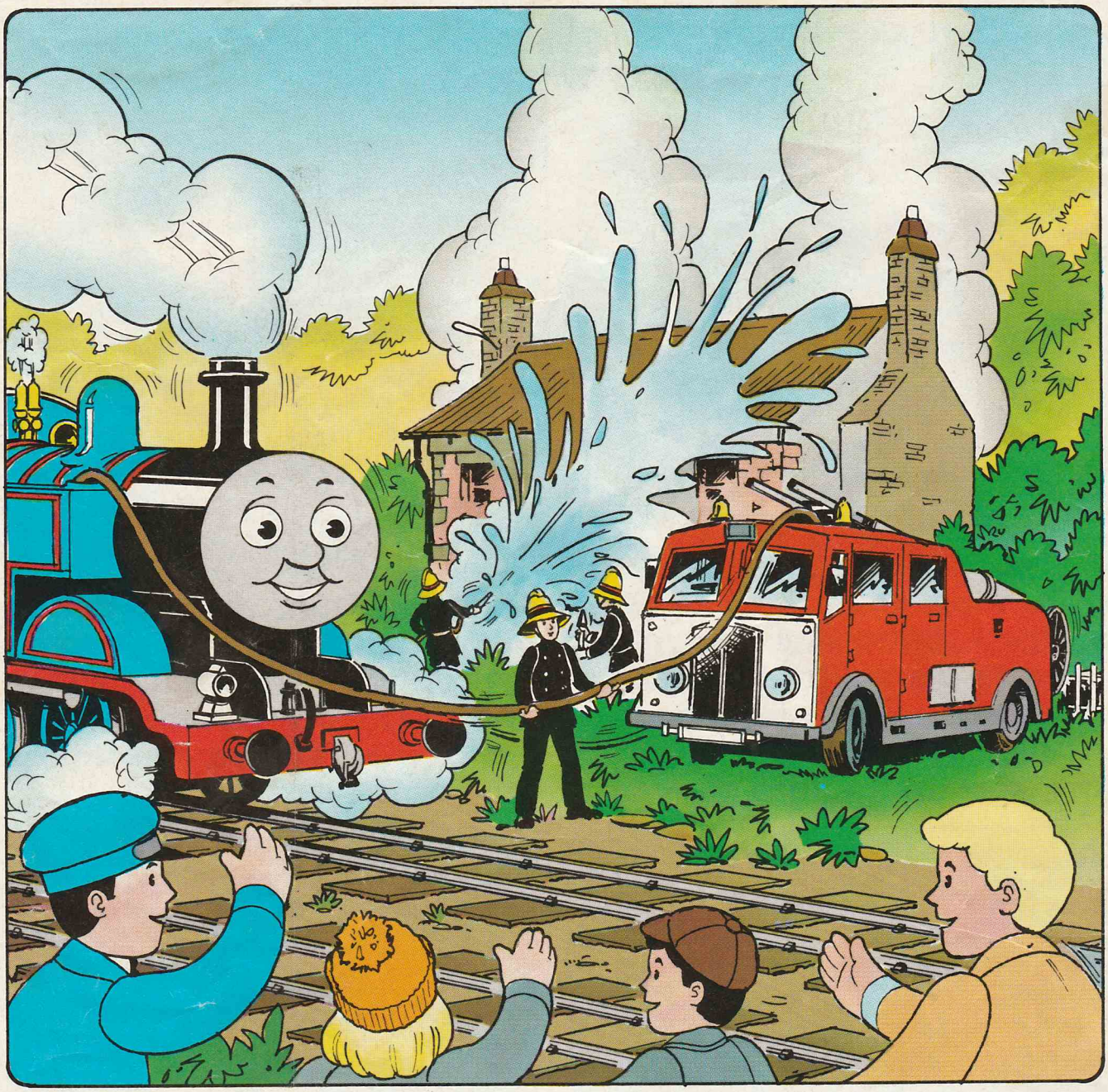
8. When Thomas got back all the passengers were in the cottage garden. They had helped everyone to get out of the cottage. Then the fire engine arrived.



9. All the fireman got out and started to unreel the hoses. But then one of them shouted, "There is no water! We cannot put the fire out without water!"



10. The water pipe was being mended and so the supply was turned off. There was no pond or stream nearby. "What can we do?" asked the fireman.



11. "I've got water in my tanks," said Thomas. The fireman did not waste another moment. They put a pipe into Thomas's water tank, turned on their pumps and sprayed the water over the fire. In a short time the fire was out. "It was lucky you were able to raise the alarm and supply us with water," said the fireman.

12. "If it was not for you, the whole cottage could have burnt down. As it is, there is not much damage." Thomas had no water left so Edward came to pull him, Annie and Clarabel back to the station. The Fat Controller was there. "I've heard all about it, Thomas, and it just goes to prove that you **are** a Really Useful Engine!"

THE END

In our next issue: Pulling together!